



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
ON-LINE FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (OFAP)**

RFP NUMBER: 331.04-001

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of Purpose

The State of Tennessee, Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as the State, has issued this Request for Proposals (RFP) to define the State's minimum service requirements; solicit proposals; detail proposal requirements; and, outline the State's process for evaluating proposals and selecting the contractor.

Through this RFP, the State seeks to buy the best services at the most favorable, competitive prices and to give ALL qualified businesses, including those that are owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability, and small business enterprises, opportunity to do business with the state as contractors and sub-contractors.

The State intends to secure a contract for an On-Line Formative Assessment Program (OFAP) for grades K-8 aligned to Tennessee curriculum/content standards in Reading, Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

1.2 Scope of Service, Contract Period, and Required Terms and Conditions

The RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract details the State's required:

- Scope of Services and Deliverables in Section A;
- Contract Period in Section B;
- Payment Terms in Section C;
- Standard Terms and Conditions in Section D; and,
- Special Terms and Conditions in Section E.

The *pro forma* contract substantially represents the contract document that the proposer selected by the State MUST agree to and sign.

1.3 Nondiscrimination

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, be discriminated against in the admission or access to, or be discriminated against in treatment or employment in the State's contracted programs or activities on the grounds of disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal or Tennessee State Constitutional or statutory law; nor shall they be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of contracts with the State or in the employment practices of the State's contractors. Accordingly, all vendors entering into contracts with the State shall, upon request, be required to show proof of such nondiscrimination and to post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

The State has designated the following to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the State of Tennessee, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and applicable federal regulations.

Dr. May Alice Ridley, Director of Office of Civil Rights
 Tennessee Department of Education
 7th Floor Andrew Johnson Tower
 710 James Robertson Parkway
 Nashville, TN 37243
 Phone: (615) 532-4982

1.4 Assistance to Proposers With a Disability

A Proposer with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this RFP and participating in this RFP process. A Proposer with a disability should contact the RFP

Coordinator to request reasonable accommodation no later than the Disability Accommodation Request Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

1.5 RFP Communications

- 1.5.1 All communications regarding this RFP should be in writing and must be directed to the following RFP Coordinator, the State of Tennessee's only point of contact for this RFP.

Michael Timme, RFP Coordinator
Tennessee Department of Education
Office of Fiscal Services
6th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
Email: Michael.Timme@state.tn.us
Phone: (615) 532-8539
Fax: (615) 741-6793

NOTICE: Unauthorized contact regarding this RFP with other employees or officials of the State of Tennessee may result in disqualification from this procurement.

- 1.5.2 The State has assigned the following RFP identification number that must be referenced in all communications regarding the RFP:
- RFP-331.04-001
- 1.5.3 Any oral communications shall be considered unofficial and non-binding with regard to this RFP.
- 1.5.4 Each Proposer shall assume the risk of the method of dispatching any communication or proposal to the State. The State assumes no responsibility for delays or delivery failures resulting from the method of dispatch. Actual or electronic "postmarking" of a communication or proposal to the State by a deadline date shall not substitute for actual receipt of a communication or proposal by the State.
- 1.5.5 The RFP Coordinator must receive all written comments, including questions and requests for clarification, no later than the Written Comments Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.
- 1.5.6 The State reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the appropriate and adequate responses to written comments, questions, and requests for clarification. The State's official responses and other official communications pursuant to this RFP shall constitute an amendment of this RFP.
- 1.5.7 The State will convey all official responses and communications pursuant to this RFP to the potential proposers from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Propose.
- 1.5.8 Only the State's official, written responses and communications shall be considered binding with regard to this RFP.
- 1.5.9 The State reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the method of conveying official responses and communications pursuant to this RFP (e.g., written, facsimile, electronic mail, or Internet posting).
- 1.5.10 Any data or factual information provided by the State, in this RFP or an official response or communication, shall be deemed for informational purposes only, and if a Proposer relies on such data or factual information, the Proposer should either: (1) independently verify the information; or, (2) obtain the State's written consent to rely thereon.

1.6 Notice of Intent to Propose

Each potential proposer should submit a Notice of Intent to Propose to the RFP Coordinator by the deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The notice should include:

- Proposer's name
- name and title of a contact person
- address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the contact person

NOTICE: A Notice of Intent to Propose creates no obligation and is not a prerequisite for making a proposal, however, it is necessary to ensure receipt of RFP amendments and other communications regarding the RFP (refer to RFP Sections 1.5, *et seq.*, above).

1.7 Proposal Deadline

Proposals must be submitted no later than the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. A proposal must respond to the written RFP and any RFP exhibits, attachments, or amendments. A late proposal shall not be accepted, and a Proposer's failure to submit a proposal before the deadline shall cause the proposal to be disqualified.

1.8 Pre-Proposal Conference

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at the time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the RFP scope of services. While questions will be entertained, the response to any question at the Pre-Proposal Conference shall be considered tentative and non-binding with regard to this RFP. Questions concerning the RFP should be submitted in writing prior to the Written Comments Deadline date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. To ensure accurate, consistent responses to all known potential Proposers, the official response to questions will be issued by the State as described in RFP Sections 1.5, *et seq.*, above and on the date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

Pre-Proposal Conference attendance is not mandatory, and each potential Proposer may be limited to a maximum number of attendees depending upon overall attendance and space limitations. The conference will be held at:

Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
1st Floor Conference Room (First room to the left as you enter the building)
Nashville, TN 37243

1.9 Performance Bond

The State shall require a performance bond upon approval of a contract pursuant to this RFP. The amount of the performance bond must be in the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). The successful Proposer shall obtain the required performance bond in form and substance acceptable to the State (refer to RFP Attachment 6.6) and provide it to the State no later than the Performance Bond Deadline date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. Failure to provide the performance bond prior to the deadline as required shall result in contract termination.

In lieu of a performance bond, a surety deposit, in the sum of five hundred thousand (\$500,000), may be substituted if approved by the State prior to its submittal.

2 RFP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following Schedule of Events represents the State's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. Unless otherwise specified, the time of day for the following events will be between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Central Time.

RFP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
NOTICE: The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule as it deems necessary. The State will communicate any adjustment to the Schedule of Events to the potential proposers from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Propose.		
EVENT	TIME	DATE (all dates are state business days)
1. State Issues RFP		10-4-04
2. Disability Accommodation Request Deadline		10-11-04
3. Pre-proposal Conference	10:00 a.m.	10-13-04
4. Notice of Intent to Propose Deadline		10-15-04
5. Written Comments Deadline		10-20-04
6. State Responds to Written Comments		10-27-04
7. Proposal Deadline	2:00 p.m.	11-3-04
8. State Completes Technical Proposal Evaluations		11-10-04
9. State Opens Cost Proposals and Calculates Scores	9:00 a.m.	11-12-04
10. State Issues Evaluation Notice <u>and</u> Opens RFP Files for Public Inspection	9:00 a.m.	11-15-04
11. Contract Signing		11-29-04
12. Contract Signature Deadline		12-6-04
13. Performance Bond Deadline		12-7-04
14. Contract Start Date		12-8-04

3 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Each Proposer must submit a proposal in response to this RFP with the most favorable terms that the Proposer can offer. There will be no best and final offer procedure.

3.1 Proposal Form and Delivery

3.1.1 Each response to this RFP must consist of a Technical Proposal and a Cost Proposal (as described below).

3.1.2 Each Proposer must submit one (1) original and six (6) copies of the Technical Proposal to the State in a sealed package that is clearly marked:

“Technical Proposal in Response to RFP- 331.04-001 -- Do Not Open”

3.1.3 Each Proposer must submit one (1) Cost Proposal to the State in a separate, sealed package that is clearly marked:

“Cost Proposal in Response to RFP- 331.04-001 -- Do Not Open”

3.1.4 If a Proposer encloses the separately sealed proposals (as detailed above) in a larger package for mailing, the Proposer must clearly mark the outermost package:

“Contains Separately Sealed Technical and Cost Proposals for RFP- 331.04-001”

3.1.5 The State must receive all proposals in response to this RFP, at the following address, no later than the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

Tennessee Department of Education
Attn: Michael Timme, RFP Coordinator
Office of Fiscal Services
Andrew Johnson Tower, 6th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

3.1.6 A Proposer may not deliver a proposal orally or by any means of electronic transmission.

3.2 Technical Proposal

3.2.1 The RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide details specific requirements for making a Technical Proposal in response to this RFP. This guide includes mandatory and general requirements as well as technical queries requiring a written response.

NOTICE: No pricing information shall be included in the Technical Proposal. Inclusion of Cost Proposal amounts in the Technical Proposal shall make the proposal non-responsive and the State shall reject it.

3.2.2 Each Proposer must use the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide to organize, reference, and draft the Technical Proposal. Each Proposer should duplicate the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide and use it as a table of contents covering the Technical Proposal (adding proposal page numbers as appropriate).

3.2.3 Each proposal should be economically prepared, with emphasis on completeness and clarity of content. A proposal, as well as any reference material presented, must be written in English and must be written on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper (although foldouts containing charts, spreadsheets, and oversized exhibits are permissible). All proposal pages must be numbered.

- 3.2.4 All information included in a Technical Proposal should be relevant to a specific requirement detailed in the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide. All information must be incorporated into a response to a specific requirement and clearly referenced. Any information not meeting these criteria will be deemed extraneous and will in no way contribute to the evaluation process.
- 3.2.5 The State may determine a proposal to be non-responsive and reject it if the Proposer fails to organize and properly reference the Technical Proposal as required by this RFP and the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide;
- 3.2.6 The State may determine a proposal to be non-responsive and reject it if the Technical Proposal document fails to appropriately address/meet all of the requirements detailed in the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide
- 3.3 Cost Proposal**
- 3.3.1 The Cost Proposal must be submitted to the State in a sealed package separate from the Technical proposal.
- 3.3.2 Each Cost Proposal must be recorded on an exact duplicate of the RFP Attachment 6.4, Cost Proposal and Evaluation Guide.
- 3.3.3 Each Proposer shall ONLY record the proposed cost exactly as required by the Cost Proposal and Evaluation Guide and shall NOT record any other rates, amounts, or information.
- 3.3.4 The proposed cost shall incorporate all costs for services under the contract for the total contract period.
- 3.3.5 The Proposer must sign and date the Cost Proposal.
- 3.3.6 If a Proposer fails to submit a Cost Proposal as required, the State shall determine the proposal to be non-responsive and reject it.

4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS & CONTRACTING INFORMATION

4.1 Proposer Required Review and Waiver of Objections

Each Proposer must carefully review this RFP and all attachments, including but not limited to the *pro forma* contract, for comments, questions, defects, objections, or any other matter requiring clarification or correction (collectively called “comments”). Comments concerning RFP objections must be made in writing and received by the State no later than the Written Comments Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. This will allow issuance of any necessary amendments and help prevent the opening of defective proposals upon which contract award could not be made.

Protests based on any objection shall be considered waived and invalid if these comments/objections have not been brought to the attention of the State, in writing, by the Written Comments Deadline.

4.2 RFP Amendment and Cancellation

The State reserves the unilateral right to amend this RFP in writing at any time. If an RFP amendment is issued, the State will convey such amendment to the potential proposers who submitted a Notice of Intent to Propose. Each proposal must respond to the final written RFP and any exhibits, attachments, and amendments.

The State of Tennessee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel and reissue this RFP or to cancel this RFP in its entirety in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.3 Proposal Prohibitions and Right of Rejection

4.3.1 The State of Tennessee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any and all proposals in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.3.2 Each proposal must comply with all of the terms of this RFP and all applicable State laws and regulations. The State may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the terms, conditions, and performance requirements of this RFP. The State may consider any proposal that does not meet the requirements of this RFP to be non-responsive, and the State may reject such a proposal.

4.3.3 A proposal of alternate services (*i.e.*, a proposal that offers services different from those requested by this RFP) shall be considered non-responsive and rejected.

4.3.4 A Proposer may not restrict the rights of the State or otherwise qualify a proposal. The State may determine such a proposal to be a non-responsive counteroffer, and the proposal may be rejected.

4.3.5 A Proposer may not submit the Proposer's own contract terms and conditions in a response to this RFP. If a proposal contains such terms and conditions, the State may determine, at its sole discretion, the proposal to be a non-responsive counteroffer, and the proposal may be rejected.

4.3.6 A Proposer shall not submit more than one proposal. Submitting more than one proposal shall result in the disqualification of the Proposer.

4.3.7 A Proposer shall not submit multiple proposals in different forms. This prohibited action shall be defined as a Proposer submitting one proposal as a prime contractor and permitting a second Proposer to submit another proposal with the first Proposer offered as a subcontractor. This restriction does not prohibit different Proposers from offering the same subcontractor as a part of their proposals, provided that the subcontractor does not also submit a proposal as a prime contractor. Submitting multiple proposals in different forms may result in the disqualification of all Proposers knowingly involved.

4.3.8 The State shall reject a proposal if the Cost Proposal was not arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement as to any matter relating to such prices with any

other Proposer. Regardless of the time of detection, the State shall consider any of the foregoing prohibited actions to be grounds for proposal rejection or contract termination.

- 4.3.9 The State shall not contract with or consider a proposal from:
- 4.3.9.1 an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, an employee or official of the State of Tennessee;
 - 4.3.9.2 a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity in which an ownership of two percent (2%) or more is held by an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, an employee or official of the State of Tennessee (this shall not apply either to financial interests that have been placed into a "blind trust" arrangement pursuant to which the employee does not have knowledge of the retention or disposition of such interests or to the ownership of publicly traded stocks or bonds where such ownership constitutes less than 2% of the total outstanding amount of the stocks or bonds of the issuing entity);
 - 4.3.9.3 a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity which employs an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, an employee or official of the State of Tennessee in a position that would allow the direct or indirect use or disclosure of information, which was obtained through or in connection with his or her employment and not made available to the general public, for the purpose of furthering the private interest or personal profit of any person; or,
 - 4.3.9.4 any individual, company, or other entity involved in assisting the State in the development, formulation, or drafting of this RFP or its scope of services shall be considered to have been given information that would afford an unfair advantage over other Proposers, and such individual, company, or other entity may not submit a proposal in response to this RFP.
 - 4.3.9.5 For the purposes of applying the requirements of RFP subsection 4.3.9, *et. seq.*, an individual shall be deemed an employee or official of the State of Tennessee until such time as all compensation for salary, termination pay, and annual leave has been paid.
 - 4.3.10 The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive a proposal's variances from full compliance with this RFP. If the State waives minor variances in a proposal, such waiver shall not modify the RFP requirements or excuse the Proposer from full compliance with such. Notwithstanding any minor variance, the State may hold any Proposer to strict compliance with this RFP.

4.4 Incorrect Proposal Information

If the State determines that a Proposer has provided, for consideration in this RFP process or subsequent contract negotiations, incorrect information that the Proposer knew or should have known was materially incorrect, that proposal shall be determined non-responsive and shall be rejected.

4.5 Proposal of Additional Services

If a proposal offers services in addition to those required by and described in this RFP, the additional services may be added to the contract before contract signing at the sole discretion of the State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Proposer shall not propose any additional cost amount(s) or rate(s) for additional services.

NOTICE: The Proposer's Cost Proposal shall record only the proposed cost as required in this RFP and shall not record any other rates, amounts, or information. If a Proposer fails to submit a Cost Proposal as required, the State shall determine the proposal to be non-responsive and shall reject the proposal.

4.6 Assignment and Subcontracting

- 4.6.1 The Proposer awarded a contract pursuant to this RFP may not subcontract, transfer, or assign any portion of the contract without the State's prior, written approval.

- 4.6.2 A subcontractor may only be substituted for a proposed subcontractor at the discretion of the State and with the State's prior, written approval.
- 4.6.3 At its sole discretion, the State reserves the right to refuse approval of any subcontract, transfer, or assignment.
- 4.6.4 Notwithstanding State approval of each subcontractor, the Proposer, if awarded a contract pursuant to this RFP, shall be the prime contractor and shall be responsible for all work performed.

4.7 Right to Refuse Personnel

At its sole discretion, the State reserves the right to refuse any personnel, of the prime contractor or a subcontractor, for use in the performance of a contract pursuant to this RFP.

4.8 Insurance

The State may require the apparent successful Proposer to provide proof of adequate worker's compensation and public liability insurance coverage before entering into a contract. Additionally, the State may require, at its sole discretion, the apparent successful Proposer to provide proof of adequate professional malpractice liability or other forms of insurance. Failure to provide evidence of such insurance coverage is a material breach and grounds for termination of the contract negotiations. Any insurance required by the State shall be in form and substance acceptable to the State.

4.9 Licensure

Before a contract pursuant to this RFP is signed, the apparent successful Proposer must hold all necessary, applicable business and professional licenses. The State may require any or all Proposers to submit evidence of proper licensure.

4.10 Service Location and Work Space

The service pursuant to this RFP is to be performed, completed, managed, and delivered as detailed in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract. Work space on the State's premises may be available for contractor use in accordance with the *pro forma* contract or at the State's discretion. Any work performed on the State's premises shall be completed during the State's standard business hours.

4.11 Proposal Withdrawal

A Proposer may withdraw a submitted proposal at any time up to the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. To do so, a proposer must submit a written request, signed by a Proposer's authorized representative to withdraw a proposal. After withdrawing a previously submitted proposal, a Proposer may submit another proposal at any time up to the Proposal Deadline.

4.12 Proposal Errors and Amendments

Each Proposer is liable for all proposal errors or omissions. A Proposer will not be allowed to alter or amend proposal documents after the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events unless such is formally requested, in writing, by the State.

4.13 Proposal Preparation Costs

The State will not pay any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any proposal.

4.14 Disclosure of Proposal Contents

Each proposal and all materials submitted to the State in response to this RFP shall become the property of the State of Tennessee. Selection or rejection of a proposal does not affect this right. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, shall be held in confidence during the evaluation process. Notwithstanding, a list of actual proposers submitting timely proposals may be available to the public, upon request, directly after technical proposals are opened by the state.

Upon the completion of the evaluation of proposals, indicated by public release of an Evaluation Notice, the proposals and associated materials shall be open for review by the public in accordance with *Tennessee Code Annotated*, Section 10-7-504(a)(7). By submitting a proposal, the Proposer acknowledges and accepts that the full proposal contents and associated documents shall become open to public inspection.

4.15 Contractor Registration

All service contractors with state of Tennessee contracts must be registered through the Department of Finance and Administration's Service Provider Registry prior to contract approval. However, registration with the state is not required to make a proposal (any unregistered service provider must simply register as required prior to the final contract approval). Refer to the following Internet URL for more information about the Service Provider Registry and to register "on-line."

www.state.tn.us/finance/rds/ocr/sprs.html

4.16 Contract Approval

The RFP and the contractor selection processes do not obligate the State and do not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Proposer with the apparent best-evaluated proposal or any other Proposer. Contract award and State obligations pursuant thereto shall commence only after the contract is signed by the Contractor and the head of the procuring state agency and after the contract is approved and signed by all other State officials as required by State laws and regulations.

4.17 Contract Payments

All contract payments shall be made in accordance with the contract's Payment Terms and Conditions provisions (refer to RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract, Section C). No payment shall be made until the contract is approved as required by State laws and regulations. Under no conditions shall the State be liable for payment of any type associated with the contract or responsible for any work done by the Contractor, even work done in good faith and even if the Contractor is orally directed to proceed with the delivery of services, if it occurs before contract approval by State officials as required by applicable statutes and rules of the State of Tennessee or before the contract start date or after the contract end date specified by the contract.

4.18 Contractor Performance

The Contractor shall be responsible for the completion of all work set out in the contract. All work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and acceptance by the State. The State may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. At reasonable times, the State may inspect those areas of the Contractor's place of business that are related to the performance of the contract. If the State requires such an inspection, the Contractor shall provide reasonable access and assistance.

4.19 Contract Amendment

During the course of this contract, the State may request the Contractor to perform additional work for which the Contractor would be compensated. That work shall be within the general scope of this RFP. In such instances, the State shall provide the Contractor a written description of the additional work, and the Contractor shall submit a time schedule for accomplishing the additional work and a price for the additional work based on the rates included in the Contractor's proposal to this RFP. If the State and the Contractor reach an agreement regarding the work and associated compensation, such

agreement shall be effected by means of a contract amendment. Any such amendment requiring additional work must be mutually agreed upon by the parties and signed by the Contractor and the head of the procuring state agency and must be approved by other State officials as required by State laws and regulations. The Contractor shall not commence additional work until the State has issued a written contract amendment and secured all required approvals.

4.20 Severability

If any provision of this RFP is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, said decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining RFP terms and provisions, and the rights and obligations of the State and Proposers shall be construed and enforced as if the RFP did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

5 PROPOSAL EVALUATION & CONTRACT AWARD

5.1 Evaluation Categories and Maximum Points

The State will consider qualifications and experience, technical approach, and cost in the evaluation of proposals. The maximum points that shall be awarded for each of these categories are detailed below.

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE
Qualifications and Experience	35
Technical Approach	35
Cost Proposal	30

5.2 Evaluation Process

The proposal evaluation process is designed to award the contract not necessarily to the Proposer of least cost, but rather to the Proposer with the best combination of attributes based upon the evaluation criteria.

- 5.2.1 The RFP Coordinator will use the RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide to manage the Technical Proposal Evaluation and maintain evaluation records.
 - 5.2.1.1 The RFP Coordinator will review each Technical Proposal to determine compliance with mandatory requirements (refer to RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide, Technical Proposal Section A). If the RFP Coordinator determines that a proposal may have failed to meet one or more of the mandatory requirements, the Proposal Evaluation Team will review the proposal and document its determination of whether: (1) the proposal meets requirements for further evaluation; (2) the State will request clarifications or corrections; or, (3) the State will determine the proposal non-responsive to the RFP and reject it.
 - 5.2.1.2 A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will evaluate each Technical Proposal that appears responsive to the RFP.
 - 5.2.1.3 Each Proposal Evaluation Team member will independently, evaluate each proposal against the evaluation criteria in this RFP, rather than against other proposals, and will score each in accordance with the RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide.
 - 5.2.1.4 The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request Proposer clarification of a Technical Proposal or to conduct clarification discussions with any or all Proposers. Any such clarification or discussion shall be limited to specific sections of the proposal identified by the State. The subject Proposer shall put any resulting clarification in writing as may be required by the State.
- 5.2.2 After Technical Proposal evaluations are completed, the RFP Coordinator will open the Cost Proposals and use the RFP Attachment 6.4, Cost Proposal and Evaluation Guide to calculate and document the Cost Proposal scores.
- 5.2.3 For each responsive proposal, the RFP Coordinator will add the average Technical Proposal score to the Cost Proposal score (refer to RFP Attachment 6.5, Proposal Score Summary Matrix).

5.3 Contract Award Process

- 5.3.1 The RFP Coordinator will forward the results of the proposal evaluation process to the head of the procuring agency who will consider the proposal evaluation process results and all pertinent

information available to make a determination about the contract award. The State reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of any proposal.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, to effect a contract award to a proposer other than the one receiving the highest evaluation score, the head of the procuring agency must provide written justification for such an award and obtain the written approval of the Commissioner of Finance and Administration and the Comptroller of the Treasury.

- 5.3.2 After the agency head's determination, the State will issue an Evaluation Notice to identify the apparent best-evaluated proposal on the Evaluation Notice date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

NOTICE: The Evaluation Notice shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Proposer with apparent best-evaluated proposal or any other Proposer.

- 5.3.3 The State will also make the RFP files available for public inspection on the Evaluation Notice date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

- 5.3.4 The Proposer with the apparent best-evaluated proposal must agree to and sign a contract with the State which shall be substantially the same as the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract.

However, the State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to add terms and conditions or to revise *pro forma* contract requirements in the State's best interests subsequent to this RFP process. No such terms and conditions or revision of contract requirements shall materially affect the basis of proposal evaluations or negatively impact the competitive nature of the RFP process.

- 5.3.5 The Proposer with the apparent best-evaluated proposal must sign and return the contract drawn by the State pursuant to this RFP no later than the Contract Signature Deadline date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. If the Proposer fails to provide the signed contract by the deadline, the State may determine that the Proposer is non-responsive to the terms of this RFP and reject the proposal.

- 5.3.6 If the State determines that the apparent best-evaluated proposal is non-responsive and rejects the proposal after opening Cost Proposals, the RFP Coordinator will re-calculate scores for each responsive Cost Proposal to determine the new, apparent best-evaluated proposal.

ATTACHMENT 6.1**PRO FORMA CONTRACT**

The *pro forma* contract detailed in this attachment contains some “blanks” (signified by descriptions in capital letters) that will be completed with appropriate information in the final contract resulting from this RFP.

**CONTRACT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND
[CONTRACTOR NAME]**

This Contract, by and between the State of Tennessee, Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as the “State” and [CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME], hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor,” is for the provision of an On-Line Formative Assessment Program for grades K-8 aligned to Tennessee curriculum/content standards in Reading, Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, as further defined in the "SCOPE OF SERVICES."

The Contractor is [AN INDIVIDUAL / A FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION / A NONPROFIT CORPORATION / A SPECIAL PURPOSE CORPORATION OR ASSOCIATION / A FRATERNAL OR PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION / A PARTNERSHIP / A JOINT VENTURE / A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY]. The Contractor's address is:

[ADDRESS]

The Contractor's place of incorporation or organization is [STATE OF ORGANIZATION].

A. SCOPE OF SERVICES:

A.1. See attachment A.

B. CONTRACT TERM:

B.1. Contract Term. This Contract shall be effective for the period commencing on December 8, 2004 and ending on June 30, 2009. The State shall have no obligation for services rendered by the Contractor which are not performed within the specified period.

C. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

C.1. Maximum Liability. In no event shall the maximum liability of the State under this Contract exceed [WRITTEN DOLLAR AMOUNT] (\$[NUMBER AMOUNT]). The Service Rates in Section C.3 shall constitute the entire compensation due the Contractor for the Service and all of the Contractor's obligations hereunder regardless of the difficulty, materials or equipment required. The Service Rates include, but are not limited to, all applicable taxes, fees, overheads, and all other direct and indirect costs incurred or to be incurred by the Contractor.

The Contractor is not entitled to be paid the maximum liability for any period under the Contract or any extensions of the Contract for work not requested by the State. The maximum liability represents available funds for payment to the Contractor and does not guarantee payment of any such funds to the Contractor under this Contract unless the State requests work and the Contractor performs said work. In which case, the Contractor shall be paid in accordance with the Service Rates detailed in Section C.3.

The State is under no obligation to request work from the Contractor in any specific dollar amounts or to request any work at all from the Contractor during any period of this Contract.

- C.2. Compensation Firm. The Service Rates and the Maximum Liability of the State under this Contract are firm for the duration of the Contract and are not subject to escalation for any reason unless amended.
- C.3. Payment Methodology. The Contractor shall be compensated based on the Service Rates herein for units of service authorized by the State in a total amount not to exceed the Contract Maximum Liability established in Section C.1. The Contractor's compensation shall be contingent upon the satisfactory completion of units of service or project milestones defined in Section A. The Contractor shall be compensated based upon the following Service Rates:

SERVICE UNIT/MILESTONE	Per Year 12-8-04- 6-30-05	Per Year 7/1/05- 6/30/06	Per Year 7/1/06- 6/30/07	Per Year 7/1/07- 6/30/08	Per Year 7/1/08- 6/30/09
Development of On- line Assessment Program					
Development of Test Bank Items					
Development of Practice Sets for Students					
Development of Professional Training Package					
Video Production and Videos					
Technical Support, Updates and Maintenance					

The Contractor shall submit monthly invoices, in form and substance acceptable to the State with all of the necessary supporting documentation, prior to any payment. Such invoices shall be submitted for completed units of service or project milestones for the amount stipulated.

- C.4. Travel Compensation. The Contractor shall not be compensated or reimbursed for travel, meals, or lodging.
- C.5. Payment of Invoice. The payment of the invoice by the State shall not prejudice the State's right to object to or question any invoice or matter in relation thereto. Such payment by the State shall neither be construed as acceptance of any part of the work or service provided nor as an approval of any of the amounts invoiced therein.
- C.6. Invoice Reductions. The Contractor's invoice shall be subject to reduction for amounts included in any invoice or payment theretofore made which are determined by the State, on the basis of audits conducted

in accordance with the terms of this contract, not to constitute proper remuneration for compensable services.

- C.7. Deductions. The State reserves the right to deduct from amounts which are or shall become due and payable to the Contractor under this or any contract between the Contractor and the State of Tennessee any amounts which are or shall become due and payable to the State of Tennessee by the Contractor.
- C.8. Automatic Deposits. The Contractor shall complete and sign an "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposit (ACH Credits) Form." This form shall be provided to the Contractor by the State. Once this form has been completed and submitted to the State by the Contractor all payments to the Contractor, under this or any other contract the Contractor has with the State of Tennessee shall be made by Automated Clearing House (ACH). The Contractor shall not invoice the State for services until the Contractor has completed this form and submitted it to the State.
- D. STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 - D.1. Required Approvals. The State is not bound by this Contract until it is approved by the appropriate State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee State laws and regulations.
 - D.2. Modification and Amendment. This Contract may be modified only by a written amendment executed by all parties hereto and approved by the appropriate Tennessee State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee State laws and regulations.
 - D.3. Termination for Convenience. The State may terminate this Contract without cause for any reason. Said termination shall not be deemed a Breach of Contract by the State. The State shall give the Contractor at least sixty (60) days written notice before the effective termination date. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive compensation for satisfactory, authorized service completed as of the termination date, but in no event shall the State be liable to the Contractor for compensation for any service which has not been rendered. Upon such termination, the Contractor shall have no right to any actual general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever of any description or amount.
 - D.4. Termination for Cause. If the Contractor fails to properly perform its obligations under this Contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the Contractor violates any terms of this Contract, the State shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract and withhold payments in excess of fair compensation for completed services. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by virtue of any breach of this Contract by the Contractor.
 - D.5. Subcontracting. The Contractor shall not assign this Contract or enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the State. If such subcontracts are approved by the State, they shall contain, at a minimum, sections of this Contract pertaining to "Conflicts of Interest" and "Nondiscrimination" (sections D.6. and D.7.). Notwithstanding any use of approved subcontractors, the Contractor shall be the prime contractor and shall be responsible for all work performed.
 - D.6. Conflicts of Interest. The Contractor warrants that no part of the total Contract Amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Contractor in connection with any work contemplated or performed relative to this Contract.
 - D.7. Nondiscrimination. The Contractor hereby agrees, warrants, and assures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this Contract or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by Federal, Tennessee State constitutional, or statutory law. The Contractor shall, upon request, show proof of such nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

- D.8. Records. The Contractor shall maintain documentation for all charges against the State under this Contract. The books, records, and documents of the Contractor, insofar as they relate to work performed or money received under this contract, shall be maintained for a period of three (3) full years from the date of the final payment and shall be subject to audit at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives. The financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- D.9. Monitoring. The Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Contract shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
- D.10. Progress Reports. The Contractor shall submit brief, periodic, progress reports to the State as requested.
- D.11. Strict Performance. Failure by any party to this Contract to insist in any one or more cases upon the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, or provisions of this Contract shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any such term, covenant, condition, or provision. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified, or deleted except by a written amendment signed by the parties hereto.
- D.12. Independent Contractor. The parties hereto, in the performance of this Contract, shall not act as employees, partners, joint venturers, or associates of one another. It is expressly acknowledged by the parties hereto that such parties are independent contracting entities and that nothing in this Contract shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship or to allow either to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which the other transacts its business affairs or provides its usual services. The employees or agents of one party shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of the other party for any purpose whatsoever.

The Contractor, being an independent contractor and not an employee of the State, agrees to carry adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance, including adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance on the Contractor's employees, and to pay all applicable taxes incident to this Contract.

- D.13. State Liability. The State shall have no liability except as specifically provided in this Contract.
- D.14. Force Majeure. The obligations of the parties to this contract are subject to prevention by causes beyond the parties' control that could not be avoided by the exercise of due care including, but not limited to, acts of God, riots, wars, strikes, epidemics or any other similar cause.
- D.15. State and Federal Compliance. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations in the performance of this Contract.
- D.16. Governing Law. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee. The Contractor agrees that it will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Tennessee in actions that may arise under this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that any rights or claims against the State of Tennessee or its employees hereunder, and any remedies arising therefrom, shall be subject to and limited to those rights and remedies, if any, available under **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Sections 9-8-101 through 9-8-407.
- D.17. Completeness. This Contract is complete and contains the entire understanding between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein, including all the terms and conditions of the parties' agreement. This Contract supersedes any and all prior understandings, representations, negotiations, and agreements between the parties relating hereto, whether written or oral.
- D.18. Severability. If any terms and conditions of this Contract are held to be invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the other terms and conditions hereof shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect. To this end, the terms and conditions of this Contract are declared severable.

- D.19. Headings. Section headings of this Contract are for reference purposes only and shall not be construed as part of this Contract.

E. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- E.1. Conflicting Terms and Conditions. Should any of these special terms and conditions conflict with any other terms and conditions of this Contract, these special terms and conditions shall control.
- E.2. Communications and Contacts. All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications required or contemplated by this Contract shall be in writing and shall be made by facsimile transmission, by overnight courier service, or by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the respective party at the appropriate facsimile number or address as set forth below or to such other party, facsimile number, or address as may be hereafter specified by written notice.

The State:

Barry Olhausen, Executive Director of Professional Development
Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
phone: 615-532-4713
fax: 615-532-8312

The Contractor:

[NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTOR CONTACT PERSON]
[CONTRACTOR NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[TELEPHONE NUMBER]
[FACSIMILE NUMBER]

All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications shall be considered effectively given as of the day of delivery; as of the date specified for overnight courier service delivery; as of three (3) business days after the date of mailing; or on the day the facsimile transmission is received mechanically by the telefax machine at the receiving location and receipt is verbally confirmed by the sender if prior to 4:30 p.m. CST. Any communication by facsimile transmission shall also be sent by United States mail on the same date of the facsimile transmission.

- E.3. Subject to Funds Availability. The Contract is subject to the appropriation and availability of State and/or Federal funds. In the event that the funds are not appropriated or are otherwise unavailable, the State reserves the right to terminate the Contract upon written notice to the Contractor. Said termination shall not be deemed a breach of Contract by the State. Upon receipt of the written notice, the Contractor shall cease all work associated with the Contract. Should such an event occur, the Contractor shall be entitled to compensation for all satisfactory and authorized services completed as of the termination date. Upon such termination, the Contractor shall have no right to recover from the State any actual, general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever of any description or amount.
- E.4. State Ownership of Work Products. The State shall have all ownership right, title, and interest, including ownership of copyright, in all work products created, designed, developed, derived, documented, installed, or delivered to the State under this Contract. The State shall have royalty-free and unlimited rights to use, disclose, reproduce, or publish, for any purpose whatsoever, all said work products. The Contractor shall furnish such information and data upon request of the State, in accordance with the Contract and applicable State law.
- E.5. Performance Bond. Upon approval of the Contract by all appropriate State officials in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations, the Contractor shall furnish a performance bond in the amount equal to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), guaranteeing full and faithful performance of all undertakings and obligations under this Contract for the initial Contract term and all extensions thereof. The bond shall be in the manner and form prescribed by the State and must be issued through a company licensed to issue such a bond in the State of Tennessee.

The Contractor shall obtain the required performance bond in form and substance acceptable to the State and provide it to the State no later than October 19, 2004. Failure to provide the performance bond prior to the deadline as required shall result in contract termination.

In lieu of a performance bond, a surety deposit, in the sum of five hundred thousand (\$500,000), may be substituted if approved by the State prior to its submittal.

E.6. Incorporation of Additional Documents. Included in this Contract by reference are the following documents:

- a. The Contract document and its attachments
- b. All Clarifications and addenda made to the Contractor's Proposal
- c. The Request for Proposal and its associated amendments
- d. Technical Specifications provided to the Contractor
- e. The Contractor's Proposal

In the event of a discrepancy or ambiguity regarding the Contractor's duties, responsibilities, and performance under this Contract, these documents shall govern in order of precedence detailed above.

E.7. Lobbying. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that:

No federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Contractor, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, and entering into any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

If any funds other than federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the Contractor shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

The Contractor shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-grants, subcontracts, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients of federally appropriated funds shall certify and disclose accordingly.

E.8. Public Funding Notice. All notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared and released by the Contractor relative to this Contract shall include the statement, "This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee." Any such notices by the Contractor shall be approved by the State.

E.9. Prohibited Advertising. The Contractor shall not refer to this Contract or the Contractor's relationship with the State hereunder in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the Contractor or the Contractor's services are endorsed.

E.10. Confidentiality of Records. Strict standards of confidentiality of records shall be maintained in accordance with the law. All material and information, regardless of form, medium or method of communication, provided to the Contractor by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be regarded as confidential information in accordance with the provisions of State law and ethical standards and shall not be disclosed, and all necessary steps shall be taken by the Contractor to safeguard the confidentiality of such material or information in conformance with State law and ethical standards.

The Contractor will be deemed to have satisfied its obligations under this section by exercising the same level of care to preserve the confidentiality of the State's information as the Contractor exercises to protect its own confidential information so long as such standard of care does not violate the applicable

provisions of the first paragraph of this section.

The Contractor's obligations under this section do not apply to information in the public domain; entering the public domain but not from a breach by the Contractor of this Contract; previously possessed by the Contractor without written obligations to the State to protect it; acquired by the Contractor without written restrictions against disclosure from a third party which, to the Contractor's knowledge, is free to disclose the information; independently developed by the Contractor without the use of the State's information; or, disclosed by the State to others without restrictions against disclosure.

It is expressly understood and agreed the obligations set forth in this section shall survive the termination of this Contract.

- E.11. Copyrights and Patents. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims or suits which may be brought against the State for infringement of any laws regarding patents or copyrights which may arise from the Contractor's performance of this Contract. In any such action brought against the State, the Contractor shall satisfy and indemnify the State for the amount of any final judgment for infringement. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable fees of attorneys for the State in the event such service is necessitated to enforce the terms of this Contract or otherwise enforce the obligations of the Contractor to the State. The State shall give the Contractor written notice of any such claim or suit and full right and opportunity to conduct the Contractor's own defense thereof.
- E.12. Public Accountability. If this Contract involves the provision of services to citizens by the Contractor on behalf of the State, the Contractor agrees to establish a system through which recipients of services may present grievances about the operation of the service program, and the Contractor agrees to display a sign stating:
- "NOTICE: This Contractor is a recipient of taxpayer funding. if you observe an employee engaging in any activity which you consider to be illegal or improper, please call the State Comptroller's toll free hotline: 1-800-232-5454"
- Said sign shall be displayed in a prominent place, located near the passageway(s) through which the public passes to receive State funded services.
- E.13. Environmental Tobacco Smoke. Pursuant to the provisions of the federal "Pro-Children Act of 1994" and the Tennessee "Children's Act for Clean Indoor Air of 1995," the Contractor shall prohibit smoking of tobacco products within any indoor premises in which services are provided pursuant to this Contract to individuals under the age of eighteen (18) years. The Contractor shall post "no smoking" signs in appropriate, permanent sites within such premises. This prohibition shall be applicable during all hours, not just the hours in which children are present. Violators of the prohibition may be subject to civil penalties and fines. This prohibition shall apply to and be made part of any subcontract related to this contract.
- E.14. Date/Time Hold Harmless. As required by ***Tennessee Code Annotated***, Section 12-4-118, the contractor shall hold harmless and indemnify the State of Tennessee; its officers and employees; and any agency or political subdivision of the State for any breach of contract caused directly or indirectly by the failure of computer software or any device containing a computer processor to accurately or properly recognize, calculate, display, sort or otherwise process dates or times.
- E.15. Hold Harmless. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and causes of action which may arise, accrue, or result to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity which may be injured or damaged as a result of acts, omissions, or negligence on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or any person acting for or on its or their behalf relating to this Contract. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable cost of attorneys for the State in the event such service is necessitated to enforce the terms of this Contract or otherwise enforce the obligations of the Contractor to the State.

In the event of any such suit or claim, the Contractor shall give the State immediate notice thereof and

shall provide all assistance required by the State in the State's defense. The State shall give the Contractor written notice of any such claim or suit, and the Contractor shall have full right and obligation to conduct the Contractor's own defense thereof. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to accord to the Contractor, through its attorney(s), the right to represent the State of Tennessee in any legal matter, such rights being governed by **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Section 8-6-106.

- E.16. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. The Contractor acknowledges and understands that, subject to statutory exceptions contained in **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Section 8-36-801, *et. seq.*, the law governing the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, provides that if a retired member returns to State employment, the member's retirement allowance is suspended during the period of the employment. Accordingly and notwithstanding any provision of this Contract to the contrary, the Contractor agrees that if it is later determined that the true nature of the working relationship between the Contractor and the State under this Contract is that of "employee/employer" and not that of an independent contractor, the Contractor may be required to repay to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System the amount of retirement benefits the Contractor received from the Retirement System during the period of this Contract.
- E.17. Debarment and Suspension. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- a. are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency;
 - b. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them from commission of fraud, or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or Local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c. are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State, or Local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed in section b. of this certification; and
 - d. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or Local) terminated for cause or default.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

[CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME]:

[NAME AND TITLE]

Date

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Lana C. Seivers, Commissioner

Date

APPROVED:

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

M. D. Goetz Jr., Commissioner

Date

COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY:

John G. Morgan, Comptroller of the Treasury

Date

ATTACHMENT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The contractor shall perform the services or activities described below:

The contractor will provide an on-line formative assessment program (OFAP), for grades K-8 aligned to Tennessee curriculum/content standards in Reading, Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Approximately 36 school systems will be piloted the first year and the rest phased in at their request.

An annual work plan will be provided by the contractor to the State. The first year plan will be due 30 days after the contract start date and on or before July 1 of each of the subsequent years. The work plan will outline the deliverables and due dates for item development and video production for the upcoming year. The State will review and approve the plan prior to implementation.

The State maintains the right of approval of items and OFAP design.

The State requires the On-line Formative Assessment Program (OFAP) to include, but not be limited to, the following criteria:

1. STANDARDS

- a) All Tennessee curriculum/content standards, learning expectations, accomplishments, state performance indicators, and teacher performance indicators will be contained in OFAP.

2. BEST PRACTICES/LESSON PLANS

- a) OFAP will link lesson plans, best practices, and other teaching resources based on each standard and SPI in the formative assessment. These lesson plans will be linked to items in the item bank as well as cross-referenced to each other. The lesson plans will cover multiple levels of achievement and contain diverse instructional strategies for teaching children with varying levels of abilities and disabilities.
- b) Other resources would include, but not be limited to, best practice videos of TN teachers teaching TN students, multi-media formats for learning, web sites, etc.

3. ASSESSMENT

- a) OFAP will provide a web-based formative assessment consisting of pre-assessment of standards and benchmark testing for each state performance indicator. This formative assessment will prepare Tennessee students for the state's designated summative assessment.
- b) The web-based assessment will contain multiple testing formats, such as but not limited to, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, essay, yes/no, multiple select, matching, and open response.
- c) The contractor will provide an item bank that contains the following:
 - 1. A minimum of five (5) test items per SPI
 - 2. Test question item analysis
 - 2.1 by standard, SPI, question, question type
 - 2.2 disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, special education, and ELL
 - 3. Teachers will generate tests from the item bank, utilizing varied testing formats, as mentioned above, by SPI. Tests items may be chosen by the teacher or randomly generated. The ability to

produce multiple versions of the same test will be a feature of the item bank.

4. A set of "built-in tests" for use by districts and teachers on each standard and SPI using a mixture of formats adhering to the bulleted criteria listed for the item bank.
5. Multiple scoring formats for any tests, such as but not limited to, internet/intranet capabilities, scanner, paper and pencil, etc.
6. Tracking student progress and achievement from year to year as the student matriculates.
7. Ability to print assessments.
8. Ability to print assessment scoring sheets that are "pre-slugged" with student identification information and can be scored by an optical scanner on plain paper.
9. Ability to print assessment scoring sheets that are "pre-slugged" with student information on optical scan sheets.
10. Ability to scan and grade student responses marked on optical scan sheets generated by the system.
11. Ability to upload assessment results by student to a central database for storage, analysis, and reporting
12. Ability to generate point in time and longitudinal reports for any of the data in the system broken down and summarized.
13. Ability for technology support or "power users" to create and save pre-defined reports.
14. Ability to make saved report templates available to selected groups of users or to all users.
15. Ability to automatically filter the data selected for a report so that teachers and principals only see data for their own students.
16. Ability for central office administrators to manually filter the students, grade levels, subjects, teachers, schools, etc. that will be included in a particular report.
17. Ability for end users to save frequently used reports including filters.
18. Ability to access reports via a web browser.
19. Ability to view reports on the computer screen.
20. Ability to print reports to a local printer.
21. Ability to print reports on a remote/network printer.
22. Ability to export reports to applications such as AppleWorks, Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel.

4. PRACTICE SETS

- a) OFAP will contain practice sets and extensions for each SPI in a multimedia format. These practice sets will provide students multiple activities to master each SPI and the extensions of each SPI will be designed to deepen their knowledge and understanding of each SPI.
- b) Items in the practice sets will reflect each level of Bloom's Taxonomy.
- c) Items should appropriately reflect performances of all students and not be subject to bias subgroup performances such as ethnicity, gender, etc.
- d) Parents and students will have a school/home link as part of OFAP. Keeping parents and students informed will be the top priority of the school/home link.
 - 1.0 OFAP's school/home connection will provide
 - 1.1 capability to access feedback on individual student progress.
 - 1.2 practice sets and feedback for students

1.3 links to resources to support learning at home

5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The contractor will be responsible for sustained ongoing professional development with the TN Department of Education, local districts, local administrators, and local teachers regarding the use of the following:

- a) Importance of data analysis in shaping instruction
- b) A video to teachers, principals, and administrators explaining in detail how to use and navigate OFAP with ease.
- c) The web-based assessment will contain a help section for users if they experience difficulty navigating the web-based assessment. The contractor will provide detailed training on every aspect of OFAP to state consultants, district and central office personnel, principals, and teachers. The training timeline and specific training details will be jointly developed by the contractor and state. The training agreed upon will be available throughout the contract term.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

The contractor will be responsible for all changes to OFAP to facilitate changing curriculum, data standards, and emerging technologies. The contractor will be responsible for all aspects of the on-line/web-based formative assessment program such as, but not limited to, housing of data, maintenance of help desk, linked websites of best practices, curriculum extensions, school/home link, practice sets, and other linked websites.

Data programs/applications must be SIF certified/compatible/compliant. The program must be able to interface with the any student management system approved by the state.

ATTACHMENT 6.2**PROPOSAL TRANSMITTAL AND STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES**

The Proposer must complete and sign this Technical Proposal Transmittal. It must be signed, in the space below, by an individual empowered to bind the proposing entity to the provisions of this RFP and any contract awarded pursuant to it. If said individual is not the Proposer's chief executive, this document shall attach evidence showing the individual's authority to bind the proposing entity.

PROPOSER LEGAL ENTITY NAME: _____

PROPOSER FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:
(or Social Security Number) _____

The Proposer does hereby affirm and expressly declare confirmation, certification, and assurance of the following:

- 1) This proposal constitutes a commitment to provide all services as defined in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma Contract Scope of Services* for the total contract period and confirmation that the Proposer shall comply with all of the provisions in this RFP and shall accept all terms and conditions set out in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma Contract*.
- 2) The information detailed in the proposal submitted herewith in response to the subject RFP is accurate.
- 3) The proposal submitted herewith in response to the subject RFP shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract pursuant to the RFP.
- 4) The Proposers shall comply with:
 - a) the laws of the State of Tennessee;
 - b) Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - c) Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972;
 - d) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government;
 - e) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued there under by the federal government;
 - f) the condition that the submitted proposal was independently arrived at, without collusion, under penalty of perjury; and,
 - g) the condition that no amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Proposer in connection with the Procurement under this RFP.
- 5) The Proposer shall comply with all of the provisions in the subject RFP and shall accept all terms and conditions set out in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma Contract*.
- 6) The Proposer shall provide a performance bond in accordance with the requirements of the RFP.

SIGNATURE & DATE: _____

ATTACHMENT 6.3

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION GUIDE — SECTION A		
PROPOSER NAME:		
SECTION A — MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS		
<p>The Proposer must address ALL Mandatory Requirements section items and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The RFP Coordinator will review all general mandatory requirements, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal received on or before the Proposal Deadline. ▪ Technical Proposal copies and Cost Proposal packaged separately. ▪ Technical Proposal contains NO cost data. ▪ Proposer did NOT submit alternate proposals. ▪ Proposer did NOT submit multiple proposals in a different form. ▪ Technical Proposal does NOT contain any restrictions of the rights of the State or other qualification of the proposal. <p>The RFP Coordinator will also review the proposal to determine if the Mandatory Requirement Items (below) are met and mark each with pass or fail. For each requirement that is not met, the Proposal Evaluation Team must review the proposal and attach a written determination.</p> <p>NOTICE: In addition to these requirements, the State will also evaluate compliance with ALL RFP requirements.</p>		
Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Mandatory Requirement Items	State Use ONLY Pass/Fail
	<p>A.1 Provide the Proposal Transmittal and Statement of Certifications and Assurances (detailed in RFP Attachment 6.2) completed and signed, in the space provided, by an individual empowered to bind the Proposer to the provisions of this RFP and any resulting contract.</p> <p><i>Each Proposer <u>must</u> sign the Proposal Transmittal and Statement of Certifications and Assurances without exception or qualification.</i></p>	
	<p>A.2 Provide the following as documentation of financial responsibility and stability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a current written bank reference, in the form of a standard business letter, indicating that the proposer's business relationship with the financial institution is in positive standing ▪ two current written, positive credit references, in the form of standard business letters, from vendors with which the proposer has done business or, documentation of a positive credit rating determined by a accredited credit bureau within the last 6 months ▪ a copy of a valid certificate of insurance indicating liability insurance in an amount sufficient to cover any potential liability arising as a result of a contract pursuant to this RFP. 	

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Mandatory Requirement Items	State Use ONLY
		Pass/Fail
	<p>A.3 Provide a statement of whether the Proposer or any individual who shall perform work under the contract has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., employment by the State of Tennessee) and, if so, the nature of that conflict.</p> <p><i>Any questions of conflict of interest shall be solely within the discretion of the State, and the State reserves the right to cancel any award.</i></p>	

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION GUIDE — SECTION B

PROPOSER NAME:

SECTION B — QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

The Proposer must address ALL Qualifications and Experience section items and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references).

A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the proposal's "qualifications and experience" responses.

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.1 Describe the Proposer's form of business (<i>i.e.</i> , individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, partnership, limited liability company) and detail the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person the State should contact regarding the proposal.
	B.2 Provide a statement of whether there have been any mergers, acquisitions, or sales of the Proposer company within the last ten years, and if so, an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.3 Provide a statement of whether the Proposer or any of the Proposer's employees, agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors have been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled <i>nolo contendere</i> to any felony, and if so, an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.4 Provide a statement of whether there is any pending litigation against the Proposer; and if such litigation exists, an attached opinion of counsel as to whether the pending litigation will impair the Proposer's performance in a contract under this RFP.
	B.5 Provide a statement of whether, in the last ten years, the Proposer has filed (or had filed against it) any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, whether voluntary or involuntary, or undergone the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or assignee for the benefit of creditors, and if so, an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.6 Provide a statement of whether there are any pending Securities Exchange Commission investigations involving the Proposer, and if such are pending or in progress, an explanation providing relevant details and an attached opinion of counsel as to whether the pending investigation(s) will impair the Proposer's performance in a contract under this RFP.
	B.7 Provide a brief, descriptive statement indicating the Proposer's credentials to deliver the services sought under this RFP.
	B.8 Briefly describe how long the Proposer has been performing the services required by this RFP and include the number of years in business.
	B.9 Describe the Proposer organization's number of employees, client base, and location of offices.

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.10 Provide a narrative description of the proposed project team, its members, and organizational structure.
	B.11 Provide a personnel roster and resumes of key people who shall be assigned by the Proposer to perform duties or services under the contract (include estimated number of hours to be worked on the contract for each person, and the resumes shall detail each individual's title, education, current position with the Proposer, and employment history) as well as an organizational chart highlighting the key people who shall be assigned to accomplish the work required by this RFP and illustrating the lines of authority and designate the individual responsible for the completion of each service component and deliverable of the RFP.
	B.12 Provide a statement of whether the Proposer intends to use subcontractors, and if so, the names and mailing addresses of the committed subcontractors and a description of the scope and portions of the work the subcontractors will perform.
	B.13 Provide documentation of Proposer commitment to diversity as represented by its business strategy, business relationships, and workforce — this documentation should detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a description of the Proposer's existing programs and procedures designed to encourage and foster commerce with business enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises ▪ a listing of the Proposer's current contracts with business enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises, including the following information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contract description and total value ○ contractor name and ownership characteristics (<i>i.e.</i>, ethnicity, sex, disability) ○ contractor contact and telephone number ▪ an estimate of the level of participation by business enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises in a contract awarded to the Proposer pursuant to this RFP, including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ participation estimate (expressed as a percent of the total contract value that will be dedicated to business with subcontractors and supply contractors having such ownership characteristics) ○ descriptions of anticipated contracts ○ names and ownership characteristics (<i>i.e.</i>, ethnicity, sex, disability) of anticipated subcontractors and supply contractors anticipated ▪ the percent of the Proposer's total current employees by ethnicity, sex, and disability <p><i>Proposers that demonstrate a commitment to diversity will advance State efforts to expand opportunity to do business with the State as contractors and sub-contractors. Proposal evaluations will recognize the positive qualifications and experience of a Proposer that does business with enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises and that offers a diverse workforce to meet service needs.</i></p>

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Qualifications & Experience Items	
	<p>B.14 Provide customer references for similar projects representing both three of the larger accounts currently serviced by the vendor and three completed projects as well as a list, if any, of all current contracts with the State of Tennessee and all those completed within the previous five year period.</p> <p>Each reference must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the company name and business address; ▪ the name, title, and telephone number of the company contact knowledgeable about the project work; and ▪ a brief description of the service provided and the period of service. <p>The list of contracts with the State of Tennessee must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the contract number; ▪ the contract term; and ▪ the procuring state agency for each reference. <p><i>Each evaluator will generally consider the results of reference inquiries by the State regarding <u>all</u> references provided (both state and non-state). Current or prior contracts with the State are not a prerequisite and are not required for the maximum evaluation score possible, and the existence of such contracts with the State will not automatically result in the addition or deduction of evaluation points.</i></p>	
(Maximum Section B Score = 35)		
SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B items above, B.1 through B.14):		

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION GUIDE — SECTION C

PROPOSER NAME:

SECTION C — TECHNICAL APPROACH

The Proposer must address ALL Technical Approach section items and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the proposal's response to each item. Each evaluator will use the following whole number, raw point scale for scoring each item:

0 = little value 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = satisfactory 4 = good 5 = excellent

The RFP Coordinator will multiply each item score by the assigned weight with the product being the item's raw weighted score for purposes of calculating the section score as detailed at the end of this table.

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Technical Approach Items	State Use ONLY		
		Score	Item Weight	Raw Weighted Score
	C.1 Provide a narrative that illustrates the Proposer's understanding of the State's requirements and project schedule.		10	
	C.2 Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Proposer will complete the scope of services, accomplish required objectives, and meet the State's project schedule.		15	
	C.3 Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Proposer will manage the project, ensure completion of the scope of services, and accomplish required objectives within the State's project schedule.		15	
Total Raw Weighted Score: <i>(sum of Raw Weighted Scores above)</i>				
Total Raw Weighted Score <hr/> maximum possible raw weighted score (200) <i>(i.e., 5 x the sum of item weights above)</i>		X 35 <i>(maximum section score)</i>	= SCORE:	

ATTACHMENT 6.4

COST PROPOSAL & SCORING GUIDE

NOTICE TO PROPOSER: This Cost Proposal MUST be completed EXACTLY as required.

PROPOSER NAME:

SIGNATURE &
DATE:

NOTE: The signatory must be an individual or a company officer empowered to contractually bind the Proposer. If the Signatory is not the Proposer company president, this Statement of Certifications and Assurances SHALL attach evidence showing the Signatory's authority to bind the Proposer.

COST PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

The proposed cost, detailed below, shall indicate the proposed price for providing the entire scope of service including all services as defined in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma Contract Scope of Services* for the total contract period. The proposed cost and the submitted technical proposal associated with this cost shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any resulting contract between the Proposer and the State. All monetary amounts are United States currency.

Cost Item Description	Proposed Cost Per Year					State Use ONLY
	Year 1 12/8/04– 6/30/05	Year 2 7/1/05– 6/30/06	Year 3 7/1/06 - 6/30/07	Year 4 7/1/07 - 6/30/08	Year 5 7/1/08 – 6/30/09	SUM
Development of On-Line Assessment Program						
Development of Test Bank Items						
Development of Practice Sets for Students						
Development of Professional Training Package						
Video Production and Videos						
Technical Support, Updates and Maintenance						
<i>The RFP Coordinator shall use the evaluation cost amount derived from the proposed cost amounts above and the following formula to calculate the COST PROPOSAL SCORE. Calculations shall result in numbers rounded to two decimal places.</i>					Evaluation Cost Amount: (sum of all cost amounts above)	
Lowest Evaluation Cost Amount from <u>all</u> Proposals <hr/> Evaluation Cost Amount Being Evaluated					X 30 (maximum section score)	= SCORE:

ATTACHMENT 6.5

PROPOSAL SCORE SUMMARY MATRIX

Michael Timme
RFP Coordinator

Date

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE Maximum Points: 35	PROPOSER NAME		PROPOSER NAME		PROPOSER NAME	
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
REPEAT AS NECESSARY						
	AVERAGE SCORE:		AVERAGE SCORE:		AVERAGE SCORE:	
TECHNICAL APPROACH Maximum Points: 35						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
REPEAT AS NECESSARY						
	AVERAGE SCORE:		AVERAGE SCORE:		AVERAGE SCORE:	
COST PROPOSAL Maximum Points: 30	SCORE:		SCORE:		SCORE:	
PROPOSAL SCORE Maximum Points: 100	TOTAL SCORE:		TOTAL SCORE:		TOTAL SCORE:	

ATTACHMENT 6.6**PERFORMANCE BOND**

The Surety Company issuing bond shall be licensed to transact business in the State of Tennessee by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Bonds shall be certified and current Power-of-Attorney for the Surety's Attorney-in-Fact attached.

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we,

(Name of Principal)

(Address of Principal)

as Principal, hereinafter called the Principal, and

(Name of Surety)

(Address of Surety)

as Surety, hereinafter call the Surety, do hereby acknowledge ourselves indebted and securely bound and held unto the State of Tennessee as Obligee, hereinafter called the Obligee, and in the penal sum of

\$500,000

(Dollar Amount of Bond)

good and lawful money of the United States of America, for the use and benefit of those entitled thereto, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, our administrators, executors, successors, and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

BUT THE CONDITION OF THE FOREGOING OBLIGATION OR BOND IS THIS:

WHEREAS, the Obligee has engaged the Principal for a sum not to exceed

(Contract Maximum Liability)

to complete Work detailed in the Scope of Services detailed in the State of Tennessee Request for Proposals bearing the RFP Number:

331.04-001

(RFP Number)

a copy of which said Request for Proposals and the resulting Contract are by reference hereby made a part hereof, as fully and to the same extent as if copied at length herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, if the Principal shall fully and faithfully perform all undertakings and obligations under the Contract hereinbefore referred to and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the Obligee from all costs and damage whatsoever which it may suffer by reason of any failure on the part of the Principal to do so, and shall fully reimburse and repay the Obligee any and all outlay and expense which it may incur in making good any such default, and shall fully pay for all of the labor, material, and Work used by the Principal and any immediate or remote sub-contractor or furnisher of material under the Principal in the performance of said Contract, in lawful money of the United States of America, as the same shall become due, then this obligation or bond shall be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

AND for value received, it is hereby stipulated and agreed that no change, extension of time, alteration, or addition to the terms of the Contract or the Work to be performed there under or the specifications accompanying the same shall in any wise affect the obligation under this bond, and notice is hereby waived of any such change, extension of time, alteration, or addition to the terms of the Contract or the Work or the specifications.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Principal has hereunto affixed its signature and Surety has hereunto caused to be affixed its corporate signature and seal, by its duly authorized officers, on this

_____ day of _____, _____.

WITNESS:

(Name of Principal)

(Name of Surety)

(Authorized Signature of Principal)

(Signature of Attorney-in-Fact)

(Name of Signatory)

(Name of Attorney-in-Fact)

(Title of Signatory)

(Tennessee License Number of Surety)